



Department of Behavioral Health Services

April 2019

## Hitting the Streets with the Needle Pickup Team

### Community Outreach—Needle Pickup & Narcan

Twice a month staff from the Bernalillo County Department of Behavioral Health Services (DBHS), volunteers and peer case managers from New Mexico Hope's Community Engagement Team (CET), hit the streets to pick up needles and connect individuals to services. Through these outreach and street clean up efforts, the department provides a focus on public health and public safety in the community.

"The needle pick up is hugely important because it is working on the safety of the community. The sheer number of needles that are discarded is mind blowing and it is spread out all over the city. We just tackle a small part of it.," Eric Lemke, CET.

In January, DBHS unveiled BHRTA (Behavioral Health Response Triage Assessment) van for outreach and needle pick up events. At the needle pick-ups, staff also provides Narcan training and distribution to community members; DBHS became a distribution site in December 2018.

"I don't think I have ever done a needle pick up where I haven't run into people who have substance use challenges and/or mental health challenges. A lot of homeless people, a lot of people are using, and we actually see them using. CET, given their mobility, are able to go where there are people who they can engage with or might be able to engage with and this is valuable," Behavioral Health Services Administrator Sam Howarth.

If you would like to volunteer at a needle pick up please visit [www.bernco.gov/dbhs](http://www.bernco.gov/dbhs) and if you need to be connected to services please visit NM Hope at [www.nmhopeabq.org](http://www.nmhopeabq.org).



# Bernalillo County Programs

## L.E.A.D—Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion



In the spring of 2018 a group of individuals representing law enforcement, behavioral health, and the criminal justice system including, Bernalillo County

Behavioral Health Department, Albuquerque Police Department, Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office, Second District DA Office, Law Offices of the Public Defender, and individuals with lived experience, came together to address jail and emergency room recidivism. From this initiative the LEAD (Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion) Program was conceived.

LEAD is a public safety program that will start in the south east area of Albuquerque with six APD officers working to divert individuals suspected of low-level, non-violent crimes who have behavioral health needs and who are amenable to change. Funding for this program has been provided through the McArthur Foundation and Urban Institute's Innovation Fund and the Behavioral Health Initiative to help provide case management resources.

"LEAD is a program that is desperately needed in our

community to help solve the root issues of crime. If we are able to get individuals into a treatment program, they are more likely to stop committing property crimes and stop abusing drugs. We cannot continue with our current protocols, because they obviously are not working," said Deputy Chief Eric Garcia.

Individuals will be referred from the police officer to a case manager at Metropolitan Assessment Treatment Services campus where they will develop a personal plan that will include services and community supports that the individual needs.

"We're proud to be one of the national leaders, launching a Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion [LEAD] program here in Bernalillo County. We expect this program will make a positive impact Countywide, creating criminal justice system diversions, while also filling a critical gap in our system that connects individuals with a behavioral health condition to the appropriate assistance they really need," Julie Morgas Baca, Bernalillo County Manager.

It is anticipated that the Bernalillo County LEAD program will start seeing clients in May 2019. For more information about LEAD please visit [www.bemco.gov/dbhs](http://www.bemco.gov/dbhs).



## Monique Chavez

### Supportive After Care Client

**What does recovery mean to you?** "Everything. It means a new life. I've known the wrong way of life. Recovery is going to give me a new opportunity and new way of life."

**What is the most important aspect of being a SAC client for you?** "I would have to say it is the staff; they have been supportive of my situation. If it wasn't for them I wouldn't have an actual sense of family; they care more than my own family."

**What were some of the activities you participated in as a client?** "I've never been skiing before. We went to Santa Fe. It isn't something I would have done. For one it is expensive and two my family's fun is drinking. I have also done Pickelball, archery, cooking; I do a lot of activities with them. I work out and go to the gym as well."

**What piece of advice would you give to someone coming into the program?** "If you want it its yours. If you actually work the program, you will get something out of it. It is a life changing program."





# Upcoming Events

 INVESTING IN CHANGING  
LIVES AND PROMOTING  
HEALTH IN  
BERNALILLO COUNTY, NM

## MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS *Day Event*

MAY 21, 2019  
10 AM TO 1 PM

VENUE: CIVIC PLAZA

Get More Information Call  
**505-468-1555**

**#ChangingLives**

### ABOUT US

Bernalillo County and the City of Albuquerque are committed to improving behavioral health outcomes. Through the efforts of a joint governing structure, called the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Government Commission (ABCGC), the county and the city are strategically making decisions to leverage resources with recommendations that include community and stakeholder input.



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This event is sponsored by a joint effort  
between the City of Albuquerque and  
Bernalillo County  
[www.bernco.gov/dbhs](http://www.bernco.gov/dbhs)  
[www.cabq.gov/family](http://www.cabq.gov/family)

## PREVENT & PROTECT

Complimentary Narcan  
Available 24/7  
MATS Detox Campus  
5901 Zuni SE  
Albuquerque, NM 87108  
(505) 468-1555



### Social Media



**@BerncoBHI**

### Contact Us

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### Our Partners

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